

William Greenman House  
24 Thayer Street  
Providence  
Providence County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-179

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
79-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-179

## WILLIAM GREENMAN HOUSE

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RI,  
4-PROV,  
79-

Address: 24 Thayer Street, Providence, Providence County,  
Rhode Island.  
PLAT 16, LOT 306

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. S. Foster Damon

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This is a typical, small frame house of the 1820's.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1814 Sarah Godfrey to Joshua Mauran for \$500. Lot S on Arnold, E on Thayer, N on Joshua Mauran and William Church, W on William Church.
- 1824 Joshua Mauran to William Greenman for \$500. Lot bounded: E Thayer, S Arnold, W Carpenter and Hodges.
- 1824 Providence Directory.--William Greenman was living on John Street.
- 1825 FIRE RECORD - William Greenman, corner Arnold and Thayer. . . Deed Book #4 in Providence City Hall.
- 1826 (Providence Directory) William Greenman, corner of Thayer and Arnold.
- 1851 William Farnum, wife, Abby, and Mary Draper to Thomas Rhodes (through Everett Amherst Co.) Lot with dwelling house and other buildings, E Thayer, S Arnold, W formerly Edward Billings, N. Benjamin Bailey, same lot conveyed to our late father William Greenman by Joshua Mauran in 1824. . . Deed Book 49, page 55, in Providence City Hall.
- 1854 Resolved Waterman
- 1867 Henry Waterman Estate (son of Resolved)
- 1889 David Patterson

1937 S. Foster Damon and wife, Louise W.

2. Date of erection: Between 1824 and 1826.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey  
for the Providence Preservation Society  
December 1961.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This two-story frame house is typical of the period with a three-bay, narrow end to the front, with a side entrance-stair hall layout, two rooms deep, and with characteristic details including the doorway, and the interior trim.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block, facing east, about 24' x 36', two stories, two-story rear wing on west, probably later, three-story later tower added on north.
2. Foundations: Brownstone, regular ashlar.
3. Wall construction: Frame, clapboards, wood quoins.
4. Porches, stoops, etc.: Two-story wood porch in southwest angle between main block and rear wing, probably later. Regular ashlar brownstone entrance stoop, four steps high, double flights of steps against the house, iron rail.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys in south wall of main block, one in west wall of rear wing.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Six-panel main door in arched, rusticated opening with side lights and blind, fan light. Six-panel rear door in simple frame with top light, on south side of rear wing. Lighted door on north side of rear wing.
  - b. Windows: Six over six light double hung windows; double, molded architraves. Round-headed windows on third floor of tower.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape: Hip roof with monitor.
- b. Cornice: Molded cornices with drilled ovolo bed mold.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: Lighted monitor on main block.

C. Technical Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plans: Entrance stair hall on northeast, parlor at southeast, dining room at southwest, library in northwest partly under later tower, kitchen in wing to rear. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement. Two small bedrooms in tower on third floor, storeroom in monitor of main block.
- 2. Stairways: L-shape with landing and short leg at top, open well, open string, sawn step end scrolls; molded handrail, three slender rectangular balusters per step, turned newel.
- 3. Flooring: Wood flooring, 2-1/2" wide boards.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted or papered.
- 5. Doors and doorways: Six-panel doors, molded architraves with deep complex moldings, corner blocks. Double eight-panel, sliding doors between living room and dining room. Doorways in library have plainer, Greek Revival moldings. Simple molded trim on second floor doorways.
- 6. Trim: Window trim matches doorways, paneled window aprons.
- 7. Hardware: Large glass knobs, butt hinges.
- 8. Lighting: Electric, modern chandeliers.
- 9. Heating: Central. Fireplaces in parlor and dining room have colored marble mantels. Two fireplaces on second floor with wood mantels, deeply projecting mantel shelves with complex moldings.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Small lot, northwest corner Thayer and Arnold Streets, front of house on sidewalk, small yard on south side.
2. Enclosures: Later wood picket fence on east and south.
3. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, shrubs, and flowers.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
December 1961.